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Tawanda Maignon
Section 18 Emergency Response Team
U.S. EPA, Office of Pesticide Programs (7505P)
Document Processing Desk (EMEX)
Room S4900, One Potomac yard
2777 Crystal Drive
Arlington, VA 22202

Dear Ms. Maignon:

The Delaware Department of Agriculture, as lead agency for pesticide regulation in Delaware, hereby requests to be included on the regional Specific Exemption under Section 18 of FIFRA for the use of bifenthrin on pome and stone fruit trees to control the brown marmorated stink bugs(BMSB) (*Halyomorpha halys*).

Delaware is again requesting that all three counties (New Castle, Kent and Sussex) be included in the Specific Exemption. The estimated total acres requested are 200 acres of apples, 200 acres of peaches and 15 acres of nectarines.

Joanne Whalen, University of Delaware, Extension IPM Specialist, has submitted an assessment of significant economic loss from BMSB. At the end of the 2014 season, our fruit growers indicated that feeding from the BMSB continued to result in damage to apples and peaches. Although the damage was approximately 1/3 less compared to the 2013 season, damage was still observed, especially late in the season. In 2014, the damage on apples was approximately 15 % representing 50% of the cull rate on the packing line. With the potential for sustained damage in 2015, we can expect the damage on apples in 2015 to be at least as high as the last two seasons. In 2014, peaches damaged by stink bugs and placed in the cull category was about 10%. Growers indicate that if they do not follow a very regimented and "cadillac" spray program, the damage would be severely higher.

As far as marketability losses, the consultant working with Delaware fruit growers, Joanne and the growers themselves agree that it is hard to determine a

percentage yield loss. It is very common for fruit to have multiple damage marks resulting from a variety of reasons. As far as peaches, if there is just one defect the fruit is thrown in the cull pile. Once a peach is put in the cull category it is no longer has any value. As a result, the income loss would be 100% for peaches and the same would be true for nectarines. In comparison, there is a number 2 market for apples placed in the cull category. Apples put in the cull category are sold for processing at about 10-15% of the fresh market rate. Members of the BMSB working group still estimate that BMSB will still pose an economic threat to fruit in the region. Therefore, the availability of bifenthrin on pome and stone fruit in Delaware will be critical to avoid significant economic losses for commercial fruit growers in 2015. The Department believes the approval of this request will not cause any harm to the environment or human health.

Enclosed are two listings of Endangered Species in Delaware. One is the Federal list and the other list is a State of Delaware compilation from the Department of Natural Resources and Environmental Control (DNREC). The animals and plants on the Federal listing will not be impacted by use of the insecticide on pome and stone fruit trees. None of these animals' habitats are located in the orchards and the plant species would not be affected even if exposure occurs. The nine (9) insects on the state list should not be effected either.

Thank you for your earliest response to this request. If you have any questions or need additional information, please contact my office or Joanne Whalen (302-831-1303).

Very truly yours,

Christopher Wade
Pesticide Compliance Administrator

Enclosures

cc: W. Edwin Kee, Jr., Secretary, DE Dept. of Agriculture
Joanne Whalen, IPM Specialist, University of Delaware
Jimmy Hughes, Pesticide Compliance Supervisor, DDA
Edna J. Stetzar, Biologist, DE Dept. of Natural Resources and Environmental Control